

Preface to The criminal justice systems facing the challenge of organised crime

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PREFACE

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The Dutch Section of the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP) and the Willem Pompe Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology of the Utrecht University, the Netherlands, organized the preparatory colloquium for the sixteenth Congress of the AIDP for section IV, "Organized Crime and International Cooperation in Criminal Matters", on 13-16 May 1998 in Utrecht. At that time, thirty-four years had passed since the ninth international Congress of the Association was held in The Hague in 1964.

Twelve national groups of the AIDP were represented in the colloquium: Austria, Belgium, Brazil and Uruguay, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, South Africa, and the United States. In addition, representatives of the European Union and Europol Drug Unit also took part in the colloquium. The total number of participants approached fifty persons.

The national reports, which were available during the colloquium covered eleven countries: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Iran, the Netherlands, Roumania, Slovenia, South Africa and the United States. Moreover, a report on the European Union was prepared by Ms. Bleeker, member of the Dutch permanent representation to the European Union.

The colloquium was opened by Madam Winnie Sorgdrager, Minister of Justice of the Netherlands. Her opening address was followed by a panel discussion on organized crime and international cooperation. On the morning of the third day the participants visited the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Europol Drug Unit in The Hague.

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